



JANUARY 2006

# *MOVING IDAHO FORWARD*

In partnership with local, state, and federally elected officials, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe intends to be an important resource in 2006 for all stakeholders who are involved with issues that affect our Tribe.

We are dedicated to being proactive. We look forward to working together as good neighbors and as people who also care deeply about Idaho and her communities, families, and future.

Regardless of where we come from, there are many issues that are important to us all.

**EDUCATION** We want to see all children afforded the opportunity to grow and learn in our public educational system. When our kids are educated, they become productive citizens. They have hope.

**HEALTH CARE** Everyone should have access to affordable, quality health care. When our families are healthy, they carry our state forward.

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP** This is our home. The Coeur d'Alene Tribal Nation is committed to protect, preserve, and manage our lands, water, air, plants, and animals in a way that benefits all communities. We want Idaho to remain the best place to call home.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** When our communities, our families, and our neighbors are safe and secure, then we carry our state forward.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** When all communities have the ability to become self-sufficient, then all Idahoans are enriched.

In order to move our state forward, all communities have to be a part of the equation. As elected officials, we carry the obligation to envision a brighter future for coming generations. Together, we can enact visionary ideas that will benefit us all.

Let us mark 2006 with the legacy of cooperative partnership, visionary planning, and improved relations for the betterment of all Idahoans.

A great new year to all of you!

Sincerely,

Chief J. Allan

**“Together, we can move forward to enact visionary ideas that will benefit us all.”**

CHIEF J. ALLAN / Coeur d'Alene Tribal Chairman



**"We recognize that we will not always agree on every issue. This Council will be a forum that welcomes all viewpoints, and we will work hard for consensus. Those who participate and offer their perspective will be treated fairly and respectfully."**

CHIEF J. ALLAN / Idaho Council on Indian Affairs Vice Chair / Coeur d'Alene Tribal Chairman

## *A COMMITMENT TO IDAHO'S TRIBAL AFFAIRS*

Recently, the State of Idaho Council on Indian Affairs convened in Bonners Ferry, Idaho. At the meeting, new leadership was elected, including Senator Mike Jorgenson (R-Hayden Lake) as Council Chairman and Tribal Chairman Chief J. Allan, Coeur d'Alene Tribe, as Council Vice Chair.

The Council is a unique forum dedicated to creating better public policy for the state and the American Indian communities of Idaho.

The new leadership on the Council is committed to an equal partnership that can bring to bear collaborative and positive results that will better serve the state and tribal constituencies.

Other members of the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs include:

- Senator BERT MARLEY (D-McCammon)
- Representative JOSEPH CANNON (R-Blackfoot)
- Representative GEORGE SAYLER (D-Coeur d'Alene)
- Tribal Business Council Vice Chair NANCY MURILLO (Shoshone-Bannock Tribes)
- Tribal Councilmember GARY AITKEN, SR. (Kootenai Tribe)
- Tribal Chaplain RANDALL MINTHORN (Nez Perce Tribe)
- Tribal Chairman TERRY GIBSON (Shoshone-Paiute Tribes)
- LANCE GILES (Office of the Governor)

During the 2006 Legislative session, the Idaho Council on Indian Affairs intends to be a vehicle to discuss, advise, and possibly recommend legislation for legislators, state officials, and Idaho citizens. Another critical function of the Council will be to provide a conduit for communications between the people and their governments on issues important to Idaho's Indian Country.

The State of Idaho Council on Indian Affairs is scheduled to meet monthly during the 2006 Legislative session.

We welcome your participation and invite you to contact us with your views and opportunities to build a better, more collaborative, and open public policy for Idaho and our Indian Nations.

## *OUR RESERVATION*

- ▶ Aboriginal territory of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe includes approximately 4 million acres of land now known as northern Idaho, eastern Washington, and western Montana.
- ▶ Today the Coeur d'Alene Reservation boundaries encompass 345,000 acres.
- ▶ Including both Tribal and non-Tribal populations, over 6,500 people reside on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation today. Nineteen percent of this population is American Indian, almost half of whom are under the age of 20.
- ▶ Currently, there are over 1,900 federally recognized members of the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Nation.





# TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

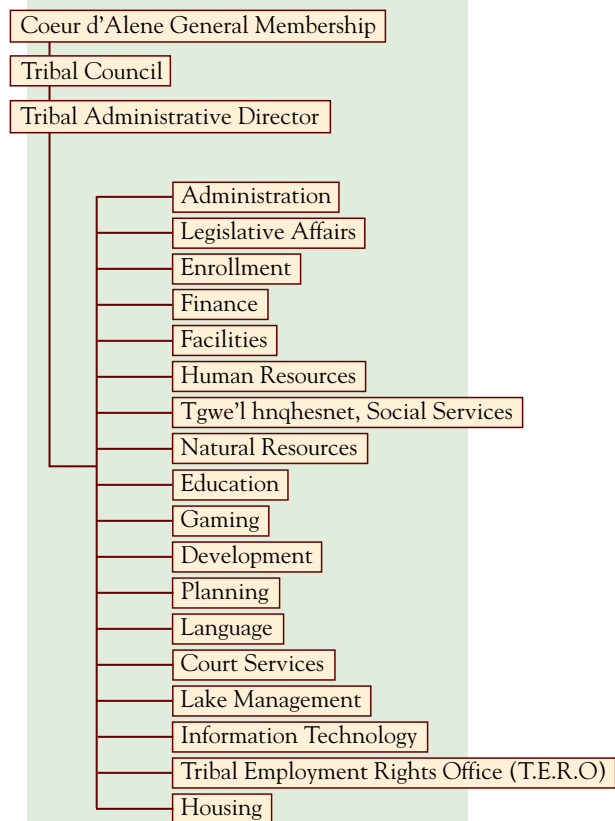
As a successful self-governance Tribe, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal organization is dynamic and employs over 1,200 people within 18 governmental departments and several Tribal enterprises.

Tribal enterprises include the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Casino and Resort; Benewah Medical Center & Coeur d'Alene Tribal Wellness Center; Benewah Market; Benewah Automotive Center; and Ace Hardware.

**TRIBAL LEADERSHIP** The Tribal Council is the governing body of the sovereign Coeur d'Alene Tribal Nation. Council Members are elected to three-year terms by the General Membership of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe. Executive leaders are elected internally by the Council for one-year terms.



Front row from left:  
Norma J. Peone, Council Member; Chief J. Allan, Tribal Chairman;  
Leta Campbell, Secretary Treasurer.  
Back row from left:  
Garry Hendrickx, Council Member; Chuck Matheson, Council Member;  
Francis A. SiJohn, Vice Chairman; Ernest L. Stensgar, Council Member.



## OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

As part of the Coeur d'Alene Tribe's commitment to proactively working on legislative issues that affect the Tribe, the Coeur d'Alene Tribal Office of Legislative Affairs is tasked with analyzing, interpreting, and recommending action on legislative policies at the federal, state, and local levels.

Some issues focused upon by the Office of Legislative Affairs include:

**HEALTH CARE** One area of focus includes the Indian Health Care Improvement Act that is currently up for reauthorization in the U.S. Congress. The Coeur d'Alene Tribe is interested in improving the Act to address gross underfunding of the Catastrophic Health Emergency Fund, recruitment and retention of qualified medical professionals in Indian Country, and maintaining Medicaid and Medicare third party billing.

**YOUTH** The Tribe is focused on supporting beneficial amendments to the federal Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act. Amendments to the Act are part of an ongoing effort to protect Tribal children, while encouraging healthy lifestyles that benefit Tribal families.

Additionally, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe is interested in expanding educational resources regarding historical and contemporary Tribal issues for Idaho's public education system.

**PUBLIC SAFETY** Recently, the Coeur d'Alene Tribe participated in the Native American Issues Subcommittee (of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee) regarding issues of methamphetamine use in Indian Country.

The Tribe is committed to addressing the social, health, and environmental challenges posed by the methamphetamine epidemic.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** The Coeur d'Alene Tribe continues to evaluate and analyze opportunities to diversify the Tribal economic portfolio.

The Tribe actively supports the federal Native American Connectivity Act as a positive step toward bridging the digital divide in Indian Country.



Margaret SiJohn, Legislative Assistant  
Quanah Spencer, Legislative Director  
Roberta L. Juneau, Executive Administrator

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COEUR D'ALENE TRIBE  
SCHITSU'UMSH  
THOSE WHO ARE FOUND HERE